(d) whether it is a fact that the Bank of Maharashtra Karmachari Sena is a side track while negotiating settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The pay scales and other major terms and conditions of service of the award staff in the public sector banks are governed by the industrial awards/bipartite settlements. The Bipartite Settlements are signed between Indian Banks' Association (representing the Banks' managements) and the workmen unions having bipartite relationship with IBA under the provisions contained in the Industrial Disputes Act. In addition, there are certain agreements between the individual bank managements and the majority unions representing the workmen in each bank. While the banks may have discussions with all the recognised unions in the bank, the agreements are usually signed with the majority unions and other unions may later on subscribe to such agreements. The decision regarding inviting recognised unions and other unions operating in a bank lies solely with the management of the banks. On the same analogy, Bank of Maharashtra Karamchari Sena is not invited for negotiations/settlements as they do not enjoy bipartite relations either with IBA or the bank.

Strike by Central Government Employees

3723. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Financial Express dated 12th August, 1993 captioned "Central Staff threatens stir as Government fail to act on demands" as well as on the recommendation of the last 4th Pay Commission's Report;

(b) if so, what are the main demands of the National Joint Action Committee; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far to avert an indefinite strike next month by over 35 lakhs Central Government employees over revision of pay wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demands of the National Joint Action Committee are as follows:

(i) Merger of a portion of DA with basic pay.

(ii) Setting up of permanent Wage Review Committee for Central Government employees.

(iii) 20% increase in wages as Interim relief.

(iv) Implementation of Arbitration Awards.

(v) Removal of ceiling on income for the purposes of Bonus for all non-gazetted employees.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Govt.

Cigarette Manufacturers' Assurance to boost Foreign Exchange Earnings

3724. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cigarette manufacturers assured Government of foreign exchange earnings and to augment excise revenue provided there is no increase in excise duty on cigarettes, during the current budget proposals; and

(b) if so, what are the results for the last five months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Tobacco Institute of India and certain manufacturers of cigarettes in their pre-budget representations had requested the Government to maintain a stable tax structure and suggested that this would help to improve the export potential of tobacco and tobacco products.

(b) The value of exports of tobacco, unmanufactured and manufactured, for the period March-April, 1992 and March-April, 1993 are placed at Rs. 51 crores and